THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) 11 pairs of express trains and 5 pairs of passenger trains are running on the Konkan Railways.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in Bihar

†*90. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government has sought certain clarifications from the Central Government with regard to implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to dispose of this matter at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Ban on Urea Exports

*91. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in The Financial Express dated 30th October, 2001, under the heading, "Ban on urea export has fertilizer majors reeling";

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the details of corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in the context of fertilizer industry's demand for lifting ban to export urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no ban on export of urea as such. However, in

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

view of estimated loss in indigenous production and to maintain reasonable level of pipeline stocks during the current year, urea manufacturers are obliged first to meet supply commitment upto 100% capacity utilization under Retention Price-cum-Sobsidy Scheme and then export or sell to complex manufacturers with the specific permission of the Government.

Retention price of Urea

*92. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer industry has been badly affected due to revised retention prices of Urea;

(b) if so, whether FAI (Fertilizers Association of India) have pointed out several issues to Government which have adversely affected the fertilizer industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In order to contain the outflow of subsidy and fix the consumption norms at the realistic level, Government has revised the consumption norms of the urea units on interim basis *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000. These consumption norms are based on the actual levels achieved in 1999-2000, or the existing level, whichever is lower. The retention prices have also been revised correspondingly, *ad interim.* This revision has led to reduction in retention prices in respect of some units. Such revision is, however, only an interim arrangement and is subject to the decision of the Government on the policy parameters for VII and VIII pricing periods which will include comsumption norms also, and will be effective from 1.7.1997.

(b) and (c) FAI has made submissions in the recent past to the effect that the urea pricing policy review should be holistic, on comprehensive basis and be made effective from a prospective date only. FAI has also submitted that profitability of the industry due to